

# MEMO

**DATE:** 3/6/08

**TO:** Transportation & Communications Committee

**FROM:** Rich Macias, Interim Director of Planning and Policy  
213-236-1805, macias@scag.ca.gov

**SUBJECT:** SR-241 Support Request to California Coastal Commission from Laguna Woods

## BACKGROUND:

In a letter dated January 28, 2008, Hon. Bert Hack, mayor of the City of Laguna Woods, asks Mr. Patrick Krueger, Chairman of the California Coastal Commission, for his support for the completion of State Route 241.


In the letter, Mayor Hack writes that the completion of SR-241 will provide a desperately needed freeway alternative as traffic on Interstate 5 in southern Orange County is expected to increase by 60 percent over the next 20 years. SR-241 would also provide an alternative route in the event of emergencies; note that during the fires in Orange and San Diego Counties last year, I-5, the only north-south freeway connecting these two counties, was closed.

The letter also notes that the completion of SR-241 will dedicate \$100 million from the TCA to fund improvements to the California State Parks System, including funds to extend the lease at San Onofre State Park and Trestles Beach. It further states that this project has undergone over 20 years of environmental review, and that the preferred route was selected by a collaborative of federal environmental resource agencies after six years of study.


## FISCAL IMPACT:

No impact.

Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Manager

Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Financial Officer



**CITY of LAGUNA WOODS**

**Bert Hack**  
*Mayor*

January 28, 2008

**Bob Ring**  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

**Robert Bouer**  
*Councilmember*

**Milt Robbins**  
*Councilmember*

**Brenda B. Ross**  
*Councilmember*

**Leslie A. Keane**  
*City Manager*

Mr. Patrick Kruer, Chairman  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Chairman Kruer:

I am writing to urge your support for the completion of State Route 241, the Foothill South Transportation Corridor, a vital link in California's roadway system. The completion of State Route 241 will provide critical congestion relief to the Interstate 5 corridor. It will also dedicate \$100 million from the TCA to fund improvements to the California State Parks System, including funds to extend the lease at San Onofre State Beach Park and Trestles Beach.

I served as chairman of the San Joaquin Transportation Corridor Agency for two years, and know how important these transportation corridors are for the safety of our residents and their quality of life. The TCA is a public-private partnership that has already built 51 miles of roadway with private funds and given those roads to the state.

In southern Orange County, traffic on the I-5 is expected to increase by 60 percent over the next 20 years, resulting in as much traffic as the gridlocked 91 Freeway experiences today – with fewer lanes than the 91. Additionally, the I-5 is the main arterial for commercial truck traffic through our state. Travel on California's roads almost doubled between 1980 and 2000, according to a recent report from The Road Information Program (TRIP), yet lane capacity grew by just 10 percent over that same period. Given that California's population is projected to increase 60 percent by 2050, future traffic conditions will cripple our economy and undermine our quality of life unless action is taken today.

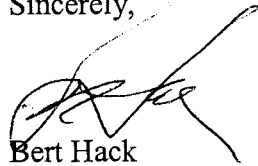
When completed, the 241 will connect to the I-5 south of San Clemente and will help relieve congestion by providing a desperately needed freeway alternative. In the event of emergencies, it will provide an alternative route that could be a lifeline. During the fires in Orange and San Diego counties last year, Interstate 5, the only north-south artery connecting these two counties, was closed. South Orange County desperately needs the 241 to give residents and businesses another way to connect to the freeways and toll roads throughout the Southern California basin.

This project has undergone over 20 years of environmental review. The preferred route was selected by a collaborative of federal environmental resource agencies after six years of study. The 241 is ready to be built now. Because it is part of Orange County's public toll road system, no state funds are needed to complete this project. Precious state tax dollars can be used on other needed infrastructure improvement projects.

The City of Laguna Woods strongly supports the TCA's efforts to complete the toll road system in Orange County. Traffic relief and roadway alternatives are major pillars that support California's quality of life and economic growth, which is why Orange County residents, business leaders, unions, and everyday commuters are united in supporting the completion of the 241.

Please help to improve desperately needed infrastructure in California by supporting the completion of the 241.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bert Hack", written over a horizontal line.

Bert Hack  
Mayor

cc: CEO, Transportation Corridors Authority  
CEO, Orange County Transportation Authority  
Transportation and Communications Committee, Southern  
California Association of Governments